

# Michael Praetorius

1571-1621

On the 15th February in 1571, many, many years ago, Michael Praetorius was born in Germany. His father was a pastor who had been trained by Martin Luther.

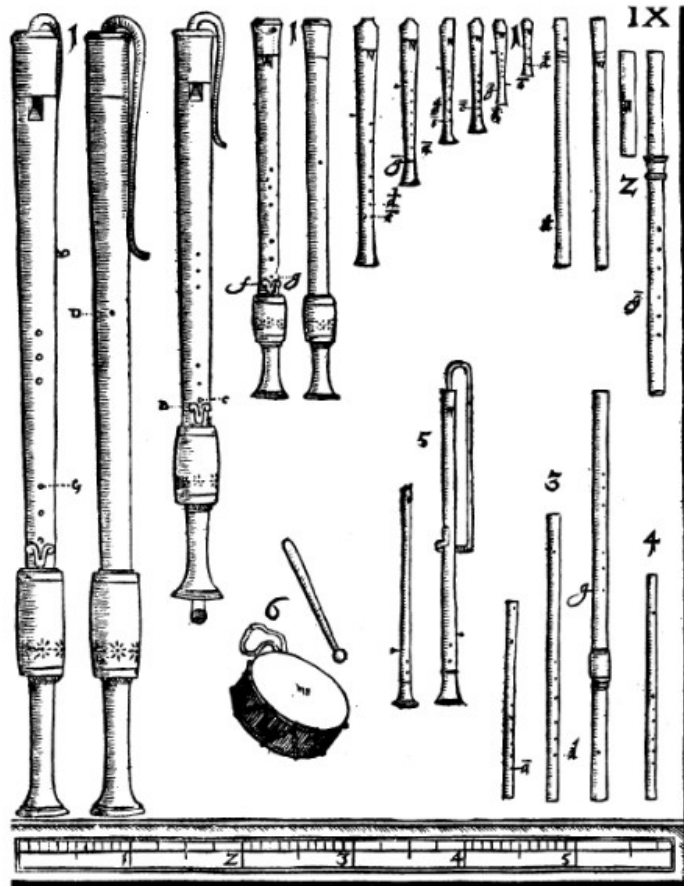
When Michael grew up he became a musician. He was very clever at playing the organ. He would travel all over Germany giving performances and writing pieces of music. He wrote a lot of music, including over a thousand hymn tunes.

Michael also wrote a book about music. It had pictures of all the instruments that people played in his day. People who make instruments use Michael's book, even today, to help them to make the instruments just like they really were, as they could not take photographs in those days.

You can listen to two pieces of Michael's music.

The first, 'Von Himmel Hoch' based on a hymn tune by Martin Luther that can be found in hymn books in our churches today. (E.g. No: 168 in Old Christian Hymns). It is played on recorders. You could try learning the hymn first and then you will be able to hear the tune as it is played by the recorders.

The second is a dance. Maybe you could try dancing to it!



1. Blockflöten/gang Stimwerk. 2. Dolchflöt T g. 3. Querflöten/gang Stimwerk  
 4. Schweizer Pfeiff. 5. Stamentien-Bass und Discant. 6. Klein Päcklin:  
 zu den Stamentien Pfeiffen zu gebrauchen.